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MEMORANDUM

October 13, 1959

To: G - Mr. Merchant

From: EUR - Ivan B. White **IBW**

Subject: Proposed Reductions in U.S. Air Force NATO-Committed Squadrons

We understand from the Pentagon that Admiral Boone today gave a presentation to the Armed Forces Advisory Council, the top policy body in the Pentagon, on the effects on NATO of the proposed Air Force reductions. Secretary Gates had requested this briefing in preparation for the luncheon which you and the Secretary are having with Mr. Gates and General Twining tomorrow. We also understand that Mr. Gates has mentioned this briefing to the President and that arrangements may be made for a White House presentation.

We understand that Admiral Boone's presentation is very effective and that it makes clear how the proposed reduction in Air Force squadrons would be a major reversal of the position of leadership the U.S. has maintained strongly in NATO. We are attempting to get a written summary of the briefing and will try to transmit it to you tomorrow prior to your luncheon.

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